
Kansas Extended Care Permit Dental Hygienist and Primary Care Dentist Surveys

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ECP Hygienist Survey Objectives

To provide information concerning:

1. Current profile of the workforce
2. ECP characteristics and satisfaction
3. Practice characteristics, including barriers
4. Opinions on emerging oral health and dental practice policy issues

Primary Care Dentist Survey Objectives

To provide information concerning:

1. Current supply and geographical distribution of dentists
2. Dentist characteristics, including plans for retirement
3. Practice characteristics, including access
4. Opinions on emerging oral health and dental practice policy issues

General Survey Issues

- ECP=census survey
- Dentists=Stratified random sample to reflect current workforce across the state; frontier county and safety net dentists=census survey
- Develop a flexible strategy to maximize opportunity, minimize dentists' time and maintain good relationships
- Choice not to focus on staffing or efficiency issues

ECP Survey Results

ECP Findings

- 2/3rd Kansans, 80% grew up in rural
- Motivation for ECP=serve the underserved
- 66% use ECP for 8 or fewer hr/week
- 45% of dentists unaware of ECP
 - Only 7% non-safety net dentists sponsor
- Highly satisfied
 - Dentist (96%)
 - With overall practice (94%)
 - Compensation (78%)

Primary Care Dentist Survey Results

Sample and Response Rate

| Population Density Strata | Sample Required for 95% confidence | Completed Surveys | Response Rate |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Frontier | 21 | 12 | 57.1 %* |
| Small Rural | 80 | 114 | 80.9 % |
| Large Rural | 70 | 78 | 82.1 % |
| Urban | 250 | 271 | 75.5 % |
| TOTAL | 421 | 475 | 77.7 % |

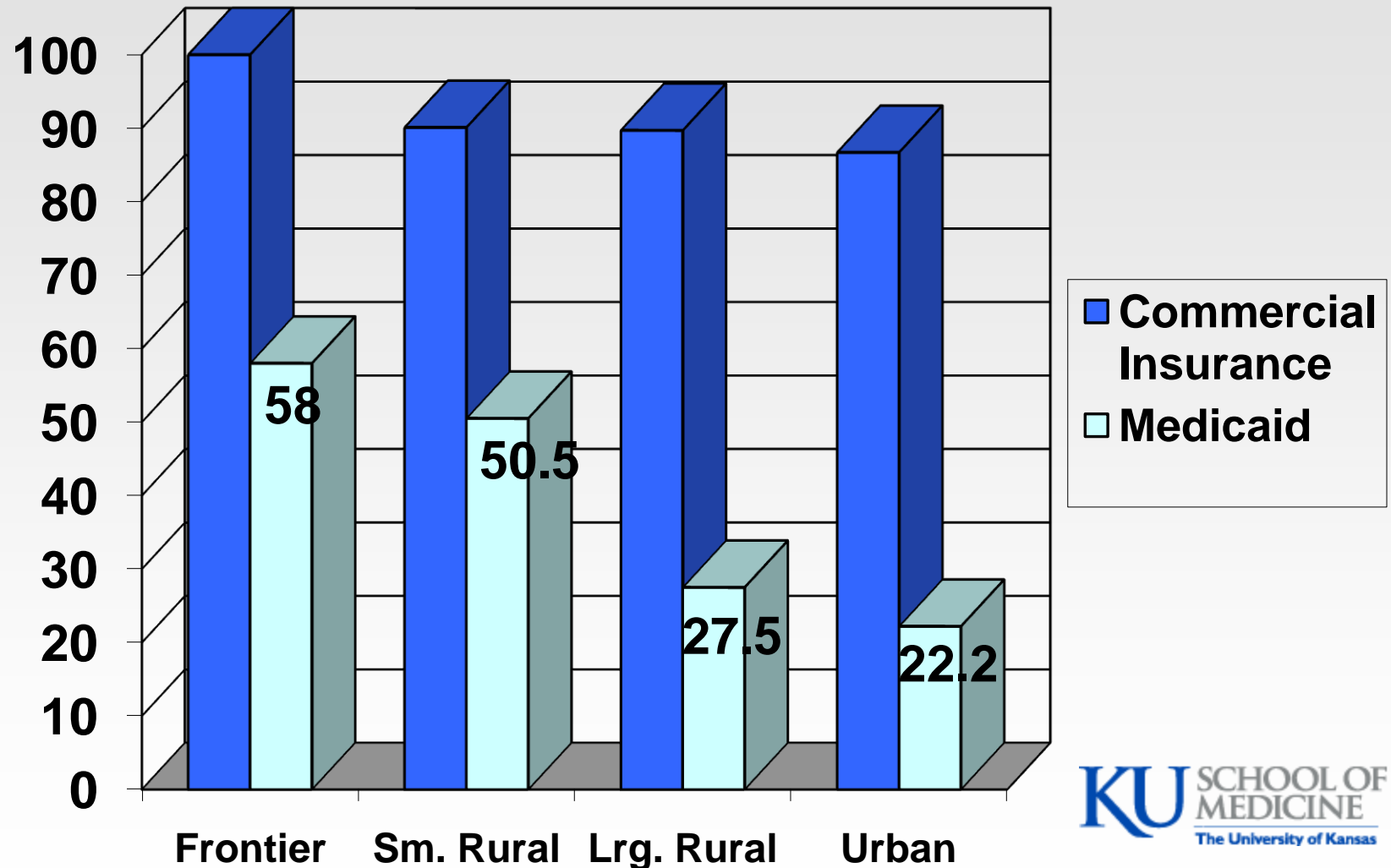
Current Workforce Characteristics

- 50 years old (+/- 8.3)
- 97.5% non-Hispanic
- 91.2% white
- 76% male
- 68% only speak English

Current Workforce Characteristics

- 64% graduated from a KS HS
 - ~70% Rural HS grads → rural practice
 - ~25% Urban HS grads → rural practice
- 68.8% graduated from UMKC School of Dentistry
- 63% started practice immediately after graduation

Most Dentists Accept Commercial Insurance; Fewer Accept Medicaid



Retirement Issues

- Average age is 50 yrs (58 Frontier, 54 Sm. Rural)
- 55.5% report working more 32-40 hours per week (29% >40 and 11.5% <than 31)
- Want to retire in next 10 years, but not planning for retirement
- Those planning assume they can bring on an associate or sell practice

Opinions and Other Information

- Perspectives on access and need impacted by their daily experience
- Unsure about access issues for particular populations
- Support for community water fluoridation
- No need for more government regulation
- No need for a new mid-level provider type
- Practice in KS because of family, QOL

Recommendations

1. Clear need for a routine, easy-to-administer workforce survey for all oral health providers to monitor workforce
2. Survey address current supply, but demand remains unquantified
3. Recommend a nonaligned forum to bridge communication and provide information across professions